

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Meetings with ALCOA

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, page 57)

QUESTION No.: AI-31

Senator COLBECK: But I am asking you a question about whether you were made aware by Alcoa in October last year that its two Victorian aluminium smelters would be extremely exposed to carbon cost impacts and their economic viability was in doubt because of the carbon tax.

Dr Byrne: The department can say that we are not aware of that correspondence or any information on that.

Senator COLBECK: You are not aware of that? So, Minister, you are not aware of those either?

Senator Carr: The department would have brought it to my attention and the department is not aware of that.

Senator COLBECK: So, because the department is not aware, you are not aware?

Senator Carr: I have indicated to you that I am aware of what was said at the time of the passage of the legislation. I have also said to you that I am aware of what has been said in regard to the recently announced review. Now you are saying that there is other correspondence. You are saying that correspondence was made available to me, are you?

Senator COLBECK: No, I am asking you, and I will ask you now: on what dates from October onwards have you met personally with the company management of Alcoa?

Senator Carr: I would have to check what date I met with Alcoa last. I met with people this week from Alcoa. I might have to take on notice whether or not there have been any other meetings with Alcoa.

Senator COLBECK: Can you recall how many meetings you would have had with them in your last two months as minister?

Senator Carr: I would have to check that. I meet with a lot of companies.

Senator COLBECK: I would hope that you do, but I would have thought you would have had some sense of the meetings that you might be having, particularly when dealing—

Senator Carr: I have indicated to you that I will check the dates on which I have met with Alcoa.

Senator COLBECK: But you cannot tell me how many times you would have met with them in the last two months of your being industry minister?

Senator Carr: Not offhand.

ANSWER

As Senator the Hon Kim Carr is no longer the Minister for Manufacturing this information is not available to the department.